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**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**TELECOPY/FACSIMILE COVER LETTER**

TO: Examiner Ja-Na Hines  
United States Patent & Trademark Office

DATE: 4/15/2003

FROM: Wei-Ning Yang, Esq.

TIME: 11:32 AM

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER: 15

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**MESSAGE:**

Enclosed herewith for your review is a Proposed Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 for the upcoming interview on April 17, 2003.



**FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES ONLY**

TELECOPY/FAX NUMBER: (703) 746-7326  
CLIENT NUMBER: 81841.0041  
ATTORNEY BILLING NUMBER: 1933  
CONFIRMATION NUMBER: (703) 308-3909

PATENT  
81841.0041

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

R. J. Obremski, *et al.*

Serial No: 09/063,978

Filed: April 21, 1998

For: DETECTION OF VERY LOW  
QUANTITIES OF ANALYTE BOUND TO  
A SOLID PHASE

[PROPOSED] AMENDMENT UNDER 37  
C.F.R. § 1.116

Box AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated January 22, 2003, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the text of claims 1, 23, 26, 33, 35, and 36 with the following text:

1. (Amended Three Times) A binding assay for sensing analyte mass in a liquid sample, comprising:

a) immobilizing an array on a surface of a substrate, wherein the array comprises a plurality of microscopic sorbent zones, wherein a microscopic sorbent zone comprises a multi-layer matrix of an analyte binding partner, the matrix extending up to 200 nm vertically from the surface of the substrate;

b) contacting a defined volume of sample believed to contain an analyte with at least one microscopic sorbent zone, the analyte binding partner in the

Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: J. Hines

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231, on

Date of Deposit

Wei-Ning Yang, Reg. No. 38,690

Name

Signature

Date